

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

- 1) On page 1, line 3, please delete the heading:

THE BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION AND PRIOR ART

- 2) On page 1, line 3, please insert the following two headings

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

- 3) On page 1, please amend the paragraph appearing at lines 4-15 as follows:

The present invention relates generally to service and maintenance solutions for programmable and/or reconfigurable modules, which are included in nodes of a communications network.

More particularly the invention relates to a communication module according to the preamble of claim 1 and a method of communicating with such a module according to claim 15.

2. Description of Related Art.

The term communication module is here understood to designate arbitrary type of unit, which is adapted to exchange information with at least one other unit over a communications network.

The communication module may thus be a line card or an optoelectrical transceiver in a switch or a router as well as a general-purpose computer with networking capabilities.